

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Sustainability Committee
Minutes of Meeting
November 10, 2011

Present: Lynn Stoddard (chair), Julia Sherman, Linda Painter, Jennifer Kaufman (staff), Virginia Walton (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 by chair Stoddard.

Approval of the October 13, 2011 minutes was deferred for a future meeting.

Painter introduced Jennifer Kaufman, Mansfield's Parks Coordinator, who is devoting 5 hours per week to create a sustainability action plan. Kaufman spoke about her interest in using a systems approach.

Painter is applying for two EPA funded workshops on green infrastructure. The grant is due November 22, 2011. Stoddard will contribute a letter of support on behalf of the sustainability committee.

Stoddard suggested changing the meeting times for calendar year 2012 in order to improve attendance. Walton will check with Hart's availability. Stoddard will talk to Matthews about her availability. Stoddard suggested that future meeting agendas list the most important items first; that updates and reports come last.

There are five sustainability committee member vacancies – a representative from Planning and Zoning, Board of Education, a resident, and two Town Council members. Walton will talk to Town Clerk, Mary Stanton regarding the resident vacancy. Kaufman suggested Bruce Clouette as a town council representative and agreed to contact him.

Sherman stated that Sam Shifrin's Mansfield Hollow hydro presentation to Town Council was well received. Hart will be asked to report on the progress of a power purchase agreement at the next meeting. The committee reviewed a letter dated October 25, 2011 from MechaSys to Senator Williams, Representative Haddad and Representative Johnson recommending amendments to the current legislation that would have a positive affect on the development of hydro and other renewable energy sources. Walton will ask Hart if the Town Council would like the sustainability committee to look into these recommended changes.

Walton reported that a transition town training, hosted by the Energy Education Team, is planned for January 7 & 8, 2012 in the Mansfield Town Hall.

Walton stated that after attending a webinar, she is recommending that the Town partner with the State Electronics Challenge. By participating in the Challenge, the Town will be guided in purchasing greener computer equipment, reducing the impacts of electronic products during use and managing obsolete electronics in an environmentally safe way. The Information Technology department is looking over the requirements to participate.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2011. The meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton